REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 10-12 are the independent claims.

Claims 1, 3, and 10-12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action objected to the drawings for including a reference numeral (1") not mentioned in the Specification. By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended the Specification to mention the subject reference numeral.

The Office Action also objected to the Specification. By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended the Specification to address the basis for this objection.

The Office Action also objected to claims 1-9 on formal grounds. By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to address the basis for this objection.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 1-3 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,202,618 (Waschk et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,041,201 (Kim). Claims 2 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Waschk et al. and Kim further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,415,533 (Kurotori et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, an air purification unit including a combustion part disposed so that at least a portion of inhaled air comes into contact with the combustion part.

Independent claim 10 recites, inter alia, an air purification unit which removes impurities from air passing therethrough, the air purification unit being disposed in the first inhalation guide to remove impurities from the impurity-containing high temperature air drawn into the first inhalation guide by heating at least some of the impurity containing air via contact with a combustion part.

Independent claim 11 recites, inter alia, an impurity remover which removes impurities from air by heating air coming into contact with a combustion part.

Independent claim 12 recites, inter alia, removing the impurities in a gas and surrounding impurity-containing high temperature air to yield first non-impurity-containing air by heating the air and gas coming into contact with a combustion part.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the asserted citations teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 1 and 10-12. Thus, while not conceding the propriety of the asserted combinations of these citations, it is respectfully submitted that the asserted combinations are likewise deficient.

Waschk et al. relates to an electrostatic copying machine having a flash-discharge-lamp fixing unit and, as the Office Action notes, does not teach or suggest the claimed air purification unit. (Office Action, page 2). Nonetheless, the Office Action rejects independent claims 1 and 10-12 and cites Kim for the necessary teaching or suggestion of this feature.

Kim relates to an apparatus for filtering solvent of a liquid electrophotographic printer and teaches forming a hollow cylinder 201 in the middle of a filter 200, installing a heater 300 in the cylinder, covering the cylinder at both ends with covers 202, and heating the filter surrounding the cylinder. (Kim, page 2, lines 46-60; FIG. 2).

The Office Action contends that the heater is a combustion part. (Office Action, page 5).

Assuming arguendo that the heater is a combustion part, the heater is isolated from the air passing through the filter because it is enclosed in the hollow cylinder. Thus, Kim's air purification unit cannot meet the aforementioned features of independent claims 1 and 10-12.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2 and 6-8, Kurotori et al. relates to a process for treating exhaust gas from an electrophotographic machine and an apparatus thereof and is cited for its alleged teachings of a fusing unit having a pressing roller and a heating roller and a catalyst-carrier body contained in the purification unit to be of alumina or diatom earth. (Office Action, page 6). Applicants submit that Kurotori et al . does not add anything that would remedy the aforementioned deficiency in the combination of Waschk et al. and Kim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of

the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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